



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/693,285	10/20/2000	Leon A. Pintsov	F-214	8085

919 7590 05/12/2004

PITNEY BOWES INC.  
35 WATERVIEW DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 3000  
MSC 26-22  
SHELTON, CT 06484-8000

EXAMINER

BACKER, FIRMIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3621

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/693,285

Applicant(s)

PINTSOV, LEON A.

Examiner

Firmin Backer

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Art Unit: 3621

***Response to Arguments***

1. In view of the appeal brief filed on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new detail action set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sansone (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,894).

Regarding claims 16,

Art Unit: 3621

Sansome teaches a system for providing value added services to the distribution relating to the distribution of a mail piece within an international mailing system comprising a first database of mailer electronic addresses indexed by mailer identification codes, a second database of postal authority addresses indexed by postal authority identification codes, means for incorporating a request for a value added service and a mailer identification code on mailpiece, for creating at a first postal authority a mail item file including mailer identification code and the value added services request corresponding to the mailpiece, for determining at a second postal authority a first postal authority address and for performing by the second postal authority the value added service and for communicating the performance of the value added service to the first postal authority using the first postal authority address wherein the first postal authority determines a mailer electronic address using a mailer identification code associated with the mailpiece and communicates performance of the value added service to the mailer using the mailer electronic address (*see column 5 lines 25-6 line 65*).

Regarding claim 17:

Sansome teaches a system to encrypt the mailer identification code (*see column 8 line 7-7 line 5*)

Regarding claims 18-19:

Sansome teaches a system wherein the first database includes the mailer email address and the second database includes the postal authority email address (*see column 5 lines 25-6 line 65*).

Regarding claims 20-22:

Sansome teaches notification via fax or telephone (*see column 5 lines 25-6 line 65*).

Art Unit: 3621

4. Claims 23-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sansone (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,892).

Regarding claims 23-29,

Sansone teaches a method for providing value added services requested by a mailer and relating to the handling of a mailpiece by a plurality of postal authorities comprising receiving a mail item at a final handling post scanning the mail item to obtain a digital image of the mail item and an identifier for an initial handling post, obtaining a digital image of a signature of a recipient of the mail item as confirmation of delivery of the mail item, merging the digital image and the signature of the mail item and transmitting the merge digital image to the initial handling post etc. (*see fig 6, 7, column 2 lines 20-33, 4 lines 20-36, 8 lines 22-9 line 9*).

Regarding claims 30-36

Sansone teaches a method for providing a value added services requested by a mailer and relating to the handling of a mailpiece by a plurality of postal authorities comprising receiving electronically at an initial handling post a transfer file representing confirmation of delivery of the mail item by a handling post, parsing the transfer file to retrieve digital images of the mail item and a signature of a recipient confirming delivery of the mail item and sending to the mailer confirmation of delivery of the mail item etc. (*see fig 6, 7, column 2 lines 20-33, 4 lines 20-36, 8 lines 22-9 line 9*).

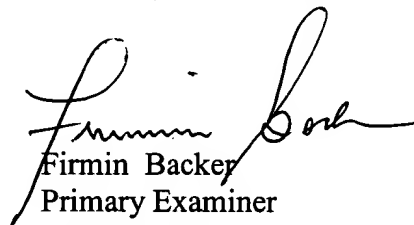
Art Unit: 3621

*Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (703) 305-0624. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Firmin Backer  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3621

May 11, 2004